



## Water & Environment Sector PROJECT PROFILE

April 2012



*USAID assistance helps Jordan's water institutions make the most efficient use of the Kingdom's scarce water supplies by supporting institutional and regulatory reforms and capacity building to enforce and implement these reforms.*

### PROJECT SNAPSHOT

**Implemented by:** International Resources Group Ltd.

**Duration:** 2010 – 2013

**Total Funding:** \$11.3 million

**Beneficiaries:** Jordanian water management institutions, and by extension, all Jordanians

**Geographic Coverage:** Nationwide

## Institutional Support and Strengthening

### BACKGROUND

Jordan's water sector is struggling to keep up with rapid population growth and economic growth. One of the most water scarce countries in the world, Jordan has very limited quantities of renewable water and high costs for providing water to people and businesses. While Jordan is a regional leader in safe water and sanitation, there are critical weaknesses in the structure, financing, and technical capacity of water management institutions. The organizational structure of the sector has evolved by increments and is fragmented, with both overlapping responsibilities and gaps in coverage, as well as poorly defined relationships among public and private organizations that use or control water.

To help Jordan face these challenges, the Institutional Support and Strengthening Program (ISSP) is working with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) and utilities to reform and restructure the water sector to become more efficient, sustainable, and responsive to people's needs. A set of reform goals developed through an extensive multi-disciplinary institutional assessment was confirmed by USAID and the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in an exchange of letters in April 2012. These reforms will result in a water sector better able to respond to future needs and will help achieve water security for Jordan.

### ACTIVITIES

- Assessing institutions and conducting a Water Valuation Study to provide the basis for a revised organizational structure
- Consolidating authority for water resources management and planning in MWI through capacity building, legal reforms and institutional restructuring, starting with licensing and water protection
- Establishing and supporting the National Water Policies Advisory Council to provide greater transparency, accountability and shared responsibility through key ministries, the private sector, and civil society experts
- Refocusing the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) on bulk water development and supply through institutional restructuring, capacity building and legal reforms
- Corporatizing water utilities more fully to create needed management, fiscal and operational independence, and control of operations and assets



# USAID | JORDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



*Over six decades, USAID has partnered with the Government and people of Jordan to address Jordan's most pressing problem – water scarcity. Assistance ranged from cistern rehabilitation, spring and wells clean up, and construction of two dozen water and wastewater treatment plants to developing policies that regulate water usage and sanitation, establish independent water utilities, and institutionalize monitoring and protection measures. Today, Jordan needs to manage its water supply as well as demands on water more efficiently if it is to avoid an imminent water catastrophe.*

## CONTACT:

Office of Program Management  
USAID, c/o American Embassy  
P.O. Box 354  
Amman 11118, Jordan  
Tel: 962-6-590-6000  
[jordan.usaid.gov](http://jordan.usaid.gov)

- Establishing an independent water utility regulator to oversee financial and technical performance of corporatized water utilities
- Strengthening Jordan Valley Water Users Associations (WUAs) to move toward coverage of the entire irrigated area of the Valley
- Developing a national water law to institutionalize the improved structure of the water sector and resolve gaps and conflicts in Jordan's current legislative framework

## PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Completed an institutional assessment and reviews of a potential water law, transboundary water issues, economic valuation of water uses, transfer of utility assets and others
- Established the National Water Policies Advisory Council
- Completed action plans for implementation of the water sector restructuring program agreed by MWI and its institutions
- Approved a new regulatory framework and preliminary roadmap
- Provided a senior advisor to Amman's water utility, Miyahuna
- Drafted an update to Jordan's National Water Strategy, to supplement "Water for Life: Jordan's Water Strategy 2008-2022."

## PARTNERS

- International Resources Group Ltd.
- Ministry of Water and Irrigation
- Water Authority of Jordan
- Jordan Valley Authority
- Miyahuna Water Company, Aqaba Water Company, Yarmouk Water Company
- EcoConsult
- RTI International
- ECODIT
- AECOM International Development
- Environmental Law Institute